

Subject: American Oriental Society seal --
design of.

Schmidt, Nathaniel
[Cornell University
Ithaca, NY]

1931-1932

NATHANIEL SCHMIDT
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

October 2, 1931.

Mr. Howland Wood,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood,

I enclose herewith two photostats of the tentative design for the seal of the American Oriental Society. I have embodied in it your suggestions as to the name and the Arabic numerals for the year, as well as the Kufic form of nurun. As regards the Chinese kwang, you hinted at another form, used on seals, with which, however, I am not familiar. Perhaps you will be good enough to substitute the form you had in mind, if you think it desirable, possibly because of the opposite Egyptian sign. I have proposed to use the Old Semitic letters, rather than the later Aramaic, for the Hebrew word at the bottom.

As soon as I get your general impression of the sketch and whatever other suggestions that now may occur to you, I shall send copies to the members of the Executive Committee, and also to Professor Breasted and Dr. Laufer, so as to get their approval.

It is possible that Mr. Newell had been appointed to take the place of Mr. Reilly on the committee. I have written to Dr. Ogden about this. But even if this is not the case, I think it would be well to have ~~this~~ this impression. I should add that I have omitted the emblems that we thought of, both because it would be difficult to find one that is characteristic enough for each of the six fields, and because I feel it would be crowding the design too much.

Very sincerely yours,

Nathaniel Schmidt

October 7, 1931.

Mr. Nathaniel Schmidt
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York.

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

I have delayed answering your letter showing the worked up copies of the tentative design for the seal of the Oriental Society, as I wished to take it up with Mr. Newell. I saw him yesterday and he had very little comment to make; possibly he will write to you directly. I have put on the photograph that I am returning the seal character for "Kwang", possibly it should be written with one more stroke, as I am indicating at the bottom of the letter here. I, however, would like to have some Chinese scholar check me up there. I think the Arabic "Nur" could be improved upon slightly and I have indicated on the photograph what I mean. Both Mr. Newell and I thought that the seal would look better if the shaded background was left out. I was wondering/^{why} in the six pointed star you have bent the lines inward a little. In other words, they are not on a line with its continuation on the other side of the star. I cannot think of anything more suggest.

Very truly yours,

HW :JG

Curator

NATHANIEL SCHMIDT
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

December 9, 1931.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Numismatic Society,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood,

I have now received answers from all the gentlemen whom I deemed it wise to consult in reference to the seal of the American Oriental Society and the various features of the design. There seems to be a general satisfaction with the scheme as a whole, but there are numerous suggestions as to possible improvements in detail. Professor Breasted, however, would like to have two alternative sketches submitted to the Society, one substantially like ours, and another presenting instead of the words for light, some symbols emphasizing our interest in the architectural, archeological, and artistic contributions of the east. I am quite in sympathy with the idea of using some such emblems in addition to the words, but fear that it would overcrowd the design. As it is, it stresses the literary interest of the Society, which is in harmony with its interests and work. An alternative, leaving out the hints of different languages and literatures, and putting in only architectural or artistic symbols would, as it seems to me, point in a wrong direction, away from the primary objects of the Society.

I wonder whether it would be possible for Mr. Newell and yourself to meet me some time in the Christmas recess, when I shall be in New York. Will you kindly drop me a line, indicating when it would be convenient, either in the week beginning December 20th or in the following week?

Very sincerely yours,

Nathaniel Schmidt

Arch Inst Richard

December 16, 1931.

Mr. Nathaniel Schmidt
Cornell University
Ithaca, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Please pardon the delay in answering your letter. I am sorry that the seal did not go through as we had it. We will try to think up something else. I have only just now seen Mr. Newell. He will be at the Archaeological Institute in Richmond, Christmas week. However, I will presumably be here all of the time. If you can drop me a line in advance, I will make a point of certainly being here that day. I presume Mr. Newell will be back the week following Christmas.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

NATHANIEL SCHMIDT
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

January 13, 1932.

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood,

Enclosed herewith you will find a photostat of the revised design for the corporate seal of the AOS, made from your sketch. I have communicated with all the scholars to whom the first design was sent. On the 27th, 28th, 29th of this month I shall be in New York again, and I have proposed to Mr. Newell that a brief meeting of the Committee might be held on one of those days.

Very sincerely yours,

Nathaniel Schmidt

WEEKEND
27

January 15, 1932.

Prof. Nathaniel Schmidt
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York.

Dear Prof. Schmidt:

I am hastening to reply, as Mr. Newell has just informed me he wrote you earlier in the day setting the date for the 28th of this month. I find I will not be here that day so Mr. Newell and I have agreed that, if convenient to you, the 27th will be all right for both of us. I trust by this date everyone will have virtually agreed on the seal.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

February 15, 1932.

Prof. Nathaniel Schmidt
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York.

Dear Prof. Schmidt:

At the Oriental Club the other night, Dr. Ogden happened to show the seal we are laboring so hard at, to Dr. John Maynard who took violent exceptions to the Hebrew and some exceptions to the cuneiform inscriptions. The enclosed letter to Mr. Newell I am turning over to you.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator